

National Fire Plan

Department of the Interior and US Department of Agriculture

www.fireplan.gov



FY 2003 Programs in Ohio

The USDA Forest Service (FS) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) agencies are in the third year of successful implementation of National Fire Plan (NFP) activities. The NFP was developed in August 2000, following a landmark wildland fire season, with the intent of actively responding to severe wildland fires and their impacts to communities while assuring sufficient firefighting capacity for the future. The NFP addresses five key points: Firefighting, Rehabilitation, Hazardous Fuels Reduction, Community Assistance, and Accountability.

(dollars displayed in thousands)

USDA / DOI	Actual 2002	**Estimated 2003
Preparedness	575	599
Operations		
Suppression*		
Hazardous Fuel	62	320
Rehabilitation	0	
Fire Facilities	0	
Research and Development	0	
Joint Fire Sciences	0	
Forest Health Management	0	
State Fire Assistance	365	601
Volunteer Fire Assistance /Rural Fire Assistance	300	791
Economic Action Program	0	
TOTAL	1,301	2,311

* Suppression costs for Ohio totaled \$284,000 for 2002.

** Actual funding will be displayed in the 2003 Annual Performance Report.

Program Highlights

- Through the Volunteer Fire Assistance grant program, more than 50 rural fire departments are scheduled to receive funding in 2003. This funding assists in additional training and equipment primarily complete sets of wildland fire clothing including nomex pants and shirt, hardhat, fire shelter, gloves, and goggles. This funding has saved rural fire departments close to \$350,000.
- Under a unique partnership between the Wayne National Forest, the State of Ohio, and the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry office and funding from the National Fire Plan six new weather stations for Ohio were purchased. Five of these stations will be located at points around southeastern Ohio while the sixth will be near Cleveland. These high-tech stations will help fire management officers make important management decisions during fire season.

Preparedness

- The USDA Forest Service will maintain preparedness resources at the 2002 level.

Rehabilitation

- Rehabilitation consists of 1) immediate actions to reduce threats to public safety, property and natural and cultural resources, and 2) long-term actions to help restore healthy ecosystems and replace infrastructure damaged by fire.
- DOI funding will cover ecological stabilization, reforestation (seeding, cultural protection from invasive species, contour tree felling, monitoring).

- USDA Forest Service funding will be used to improve overall watershed condition and restore severely burned forests and rangelands. Projects include reforestation, watershed restoration, road and trail rehabilitation, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, planting and seeding and preventing invasive plants.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction

- Approximately 300 acres are planned for hazardous fuels treatment by federal agencies.
- An estimated \$320,000 will be spent on hazardous fuels treatment work.

Community Assistance

States are focusing funding on increasing wildland fire response capacity by enhancing their level of fire preparedness, training wildland firefighters, purchasing personal protective equipment, conducting fire education and prevention activities including Firewise projects; implementing hazard mitigation projects addressing fuel reduction and installation of dry hydrants, and fire planning projects assessing communities at risk.

- Rural Fire Assistance (DOI): Estimated funding - \$7,000
~~##~~ 2 rural/volunteer fire departments will receive assistance from DOI.
- State Fire Assistance (FS): Estimated funding – \$601,000
- Volunteer Fire Assistance Program (FS): Estimated funding – \$784,000

Accountability

- DOI and USDA Forest Service have developed a uniform set of performance measures to assess program effectiveness for FY 2003 and FY 2004 program measurement.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service, with input from the National Association of State Foresters, developed action plans for nearly all of the 23 tasks in the Implementation Plan for the 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy. The State Foresters and their partners are continuing to develop field guidance for fuels reduction projects.
- DOI and USDA Forest Service developed the National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS), a common data collection and reporting system for gathering project plans and accomplishments.

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